

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 30 1964

SWEDISH REGIME WINS IN SPY CASE

Opposition Drops Censure
Effort Over Wennerstrom

By WERNER WISKARI

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, May 29 — A bitter two-day battle in Parliament over the handling of the Soviet spy case involving Stig Wennerstrom, a former air force colonel, ended today with a victory for the Social Democratic Government.

Parliament made clear its confidence in Defense Minister Sven O. M. Andersson, who had been accused by the Opposition of gross negligence.

Faced with the crumbling of its ranks, the Opposition, led by Prof. Bertil Ohlin, chairman of the Liberal party, dropped previously indicated plans to try for a vote of censure.

Parliament thus accepted without a vote a report from its Constitution Committee that it had found no reason to censure the Defense Minister.

Premier Tage Erlander had said he would regard any vote of censure as a question of confidence in his entire Cabinet.

In another action, the lower chamber voted, 116 to 105, to clear former Foreign Minister Osten Unden of Opposition charges that he should be censured for negligence.

Dispute Called Tragic

The Government's victory was greeted by Premier Erlander with mixed feelings. He said in an interview that it was "a tragedy" that the arrest and trial of Wennerstrom as a Soviet spy had become a political issue.

The Opposition had based its case against Mr. Anderson on a charge that he should have obtained Wennerstrom's dismissal as a Foreign Ministry disarmament consultant at least in the spring of 1962.

The Government reported that as late as May 13, 1963, or five weeks before the colonel's arrest, officials and the security police had agreed that, despite some suspicions, there was insufficient evidence to take any action.

Wennerstrom's activities on behalf of the Soviet Union are said to have begun as early as 1948.

STATINTL